

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08901 281505Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 COME-00

/101 W

-----115914 281524Z /46

O 281456Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1097

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

TO ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTRY HANDS US AN "INFORMAL PAPER" OUTLINING A PROJECT FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AID TO ZAIRE SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING IMF AND OTHER PROGRAMS. THE PAPER HAS ALREADY BEEN DELIVERED TO THE UK, FRG AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS. BELGIANS SAY THE INITIAL FRENCH REACTION WAS POSITIVE. THEY ASK FOR USG REACTION WITHIN TEN DAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET (CAHEN) CALLED US IN JULY 28 TO SUBMIT AN "INFORMAL PAPER" TO THE USG ON BELGIUM'S PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, BUILDING ON AND SUPPLEMENTARY TO
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EXISTING AID AND STABILIZATION PROGRAMS. THE TEXT IS SUBMITTED BY SEPTTEL.

3. CAHEN SAID THIS PAPER WAS DELIVERED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRNGAUD IN BRUSSELS JULY 26. HE SAID HE WILL DELIVER IT TO THE SAUDI ARABIA AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS

TODAY. NO OTHER COUNTRIES - AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING - ARE BEING INVITED TO JOIN THE MULTILATERAL ZAIRE AID PROJECT. CAHEN SAID SAUDI ARABIA WAS BEING ASKED IN NOW BECAUSE BRUSSELS FEARS ANY DELAY MIGHT GIVE MOBUTU TIME TO PROMOTE AN UNCOORDINATED, BILATERAL AID ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SAUDIS.

4. CAHEN SAID THAT SIMONET TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS VISIT TO PARIS JULY 27 TO OBTAIN REACTION FROM GISCARD AND THE QUAI. IT WAS FAVORABLE, HE SAID, ALTHOUGH BOTH THE ELYSEE AND THE QUAI STRESSED THAT FRANCE SAW NO NEED FOR PUTTING UP SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF NEW AID MONEY. CAHEN SAID THAT THIS ACCORDED WITH BELGIUM'S ANALYSIS OF ZAIRE'S NEEDS. HE SAID BELGIUM'S EMPHASIS IS ON A COORDINATED AND CONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT EFFORT MAKING USE PRIMARILY OF ZAIRIAN MONEY NOW BEING FRITTERED AWAY. HE SAID THIS CONCEPT WENT DOWN WELL IN PARIS.

5. HE SAID THAT THE GOB IS ASKING EACH ADDRESSEE TO PROVIDE AN "INFORMAL REACTION" TO THE BELGIAN PAPER WITHIN TEN DAYS AND FURTHER TO DESIGNATE AN OFFICER OR OFFICERS WITH WHOM THE GOB COULD BE IN TOUCH ON THE MATTER. BELGIUM'S DESIGNEE IS ANDRE ONKELINX, CAHEN'S DEPUTY. CAHEN SAID THAT THE QUAI HAD DESIGNATED FROMENT MEURICE AND THE DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS (GEORGY?).

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6. CAHEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOB FEELS URGENCY IN MOVING THIS PROJECT FORWARD. THE DEPARTMENT WILL SEE FROM THE TEXT THAT BELGIUM LOOKS TO A CONSULTATION - PRESUMABLY BY THE DESIGNATED AGENTS - IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CAHEN SAID THAT MEANS DURING AUGUST.

7. WITH RESPECT TO TIMING HE NOTED THAT MOBUTU HAS SCHEDULED ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER AND A MASSIVE PARTY CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER. MOBUTU WANTS TO USE THAT OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND THUS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FAIR IDEA BEFOREHAND OF WHAT HIS "MARSHALL PLAN" TRIAL BALLOON WILL HAVE PRODUCED. CAHEN SAID THAT THIS WAS MOBUTU'S TIMING TARGET, NOT BELGIUM'S. BUT HE SAW MERIT IN IT, SINCE IT COULD TIE MOBUTU TIGHTER INTO A COMMITMENT TO THE DISCIPLINE AND CONTROL THAT BELGIUM THINKS IS INDISPENSABLE TO SUCCESS OF THIS PROJECT.

8. WE PROMISED CAHEN THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOME SORT OF USG REACTION TO THE BELGIAN PAPER WITHIN TEN DAYS, I.E. BY AUGUST 8. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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